

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 619

If Sir Musgrave had the intention to acknowledge Nicole as his daughter, it was unlikely that he would give up on it.

It's best to leave this place; the sooner the better.

Ever since Daphne was sent away, Levant had been feeling quite disquieted.

Noticing that Levant was disturbed, his subordinate came forward and reminded him, "Mr. Levant, judging from the way the duke paid attention to Ms. Lane, I think he is well aware that Ms. Lane is his biological daughter."

"So?" Levant mumbled.

"So, when the duke passes his title to Ms. Lane and Evan Seet, you're going to be left with nothing!"

"Do you think he would pass the title to me?"

Will he really forgo the father-and-son bond that we have shared all these years?

He was taken back to the estate when he was very young. The duchess had been telling him that he would inherit everything within his sight, and that he would be a duke in the future; the master of the estate.

This concept had been ingrained in his mind.

All these years, he had been working toward becoming a wise duke.

All of a sudden, he was told that somebody would replace him. Everything that he had been working for no longer belonged to him.

It was as if fate had played a cruel trick on him. I would not succumb to fate!

Even though we're not related by blood, I've been calling him my father all these years. Does he have no regard for my feelings?

"Mr. Levant, I'm afraid I have to say that it's wishful thinking on your part. Didn't you hear Sir Musgrave outside of his study the last time? Sir Musgrave is looking for his daughter so that he could compensate her by passing the title to her! You're not his biological son. It's impossible that he would pass it on to you."

"I heard that Nicole is getting discharged soon. We'll see how it goes then."

If the duke is really asking Nicole and Evan to inherit the estate, and disregarding my feelings by doing so, then there's no need for me to consider the bond between us.

"Mr. Levant, we have to plan for the worst."

"Don't worry. I know what to do."

His subordinate did not say anything further and retreated to one side.

At night.

Evan went back to the ward. "We're leaving tomorrow. I'll accompany you back to the estate to bid farewell," he said.

The two women who were scheming against her had received due retribution.

He had no other concern in bringing her back to the estate.

Nicole contemplated for a moment before nodding her head.

"Give a call to the duke. We're going to visit at night after all."

"Okay."

Evan dialed the duke's number and told him that he would bring Nicole to bid goodbye to him later.

Stephen was overjoyed to receive Evan's call. He hurried for the maids to start preparing Nicole's favorite foods.

"Sir, are you aware of what Ms. Lane likes to eat?"

Stephen went silent. He had no idea what she liked to eat.

He failed as a father.

"Forget it. She must have had her dinner by now. No need to prepare anything."

"Noted, Sir."

The maids retreated, leaving Stephen deep in his thoughts as he gazed at his watch.

Twenty seven minutes until I get to see Nicole.

He hoped that the twenty seven minutes would pass by faster.

"Do we need to bring anything to his place?"

"There's no need to bring anything. Seeing you is the best gift that he could ask for."

Nicole felt like Evan's words were quite bitter.

However, she was glad that she could bid goodbye to the duke before leaving. Hence, she did not wish to argue about this with him.

She put on her clothes and straightened herself out. Just when she was about to follow Evan to the estate, the bodyguard rushed inside her ward.

"Mr. Seet, someone important is here."

"Who? I'm going out with Mrs. Seet. I'll see the guest later."

"Yes, Mr. Seet." John cast a glance at Nicole. "It's Mrs. Seet's acupuncture mentor, Wesley."

Nicole was excited to hear that it was her mentor.

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“Where is my mentor? Please bring me to him.”

Nicole could still vividly remember how difficult it was for her to take care of three kids when she was abroad alone.

If she had not bumped into her mentor when she was at the lowest point of her life, she wouldn't know how she could pull herself through those days.

She would always feel grateful toward her mentor; her savior. Always.

“He's right outside.”

“Quick! Take me there!”

When Evan and Nicole followed John out, Wesley was nowhere to be seen.

“Where is he?”

“Ms. Lane, Mr. Monroe had something urgent on and he left. He asked me to pass on this letter to you and mentioned that the thing that you wanted to know was inside. He asked you to take good care of yourself, and said that he would visit you when he has the time.”

He left?

Why is he not meeting me first before leaving?

He sure has weird temperament.

Nicole stared at the letter.

“I think the letter is about your identity and background. Do you want to have a look at it now?”

She lifted her head to look at Evan. Her hand clutching the letter was slightly shaky.

She had been dying to know the jerk who abandoned her mother back then. However, when the answer was right in her hand, she had mixed feelings about it.

Nicole was wondering what kind of person her father was.

“Are you going to read it? If not let's go say goodbye first. We'll look at this after we're back.”

Nicole hesitated for a moment. “I'm going to read the letter. I've heard that my father has something to do with the Musgrave family. If he were really someone from the Musgrave family, maybe I could ask for Sir Musgrave's help to punish the jerk!”

Evan's gaze sank. The plan to head back home would probably be postponed if her father were indeed someone from the Musgrave family. Besides, if Sir Musgrave intends to seek justice for her, then the two of them are more likely to see each other more often. It's going to be much harder for me to prevent the two from seeing each other if they have this valid reason to meet.

Nicole opened the letter and read every word. She was astounded as she read along.

How did it boil down to this?

How-

Evan noticed her odd reaction and took the letter in her hand. He had the same expression on his face after he was done with the letter.

So Sir Musgrave is nice to her because of this.

Nicole's father is Sir Stephen Musgrave.

He had been misunderstanding Sir Musgrave's intention all the while. So Sir Musgrave's affectionate gaze is out of fatherly love.

He lifted his head to look at Nicole. She was shocked beyond words.

Never in her wildest dreams would she think that Sir Musgrave was her father.

"So the jerk who abandoned my mother was him!"

Evan reached out to embrace her. "Nicole, I don't think he's the kind of heartless jerk that you think he is."

Nicole knitted her brows as she looked at him with a stern expression. "I thought you didn't like him? Why are you helping him?"

He did not like Sir Musgrave because he thought the latter had an ulterior motive.

However, upon the startling revelation, all his prejudice toward Sir Musgrave had dissipated into thin air.

"Nicole, he's been really nice toward you, to the extent that I'm feeling quite jealous. That's why I think, to a certain extent, he cares for you and your mother."

"He cares for my mother and I? That's why he abandoned my mother? Does caring for us mean that we could forgo his heartless act of abandoning my mother?" Nicole was fuming with anger.

"I'm just analyzing the situation from an observer's perspective. I think you would have to ask him to be sure of what really happened back then."

Nicole suddenly recalled that she had given him a call, and that she was going to the estate later.

He must be waiting for us.

Great. I might as well take this opportunity to settle the scores with him.

Evan was all jittery when he noticed Nicole boiling with rage as she got into the car.

It would not be a happy reunion at the estate later.

Let's hope that things would not get too ugly.

Evan had a hunch that the duke would not be a heartless jerk who would abandon the mother of his child.

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The speedy car came to a stop in front of the estate entrance.

Nicole's fist tightened as a swell of emotions washed over her.

Initially, she was overjoyed at her chance of being able to bid goodbye to her savior.

However, upon knowing that he was the very jerk who abandoned her mother, all she felt were anger and resentment.

She dashed into the estate as if she were here to collect a mountainous debt.

Evan trailed behind her. Noticing that she was getting too emotional, he held her back.

"It happened so many years ago. Why don't you figure out what transpired back then first? Maybe he had his reasons."

What is there to figure out?

People who do bad things never fail to justify themselves.

It was clear as day what happened back then. He might as well have his reasons back then, but it was a fact that he abandoned Nicole's mother who was pregnant back then.

Nicole turned around to look at Evan. He's hostile toward his love rival but nice toward a jerk?

When he was picturing the duke as his love rival, he was even reluctant to let both of them meet.

However, now after clearing the air, Evan was defending the jerk by saying he might have his reasons back then.

"Evan, don't you have a spine? I thought you hated him! Are you defending him because you're aspiring to become someone like him? Someone who abandons his wife and child?"

Evan was rendered speechless.

He could clearly feel her wrath.

She wouldn't listen to a word I say now.

It's better for me to just go along with what she says.

"You're right!" Evan said as a way to support her stance.

However, Nicole seemed to have misunderstood him and said, "Do you mean I'm right? Are you saying that you're aspiring to become someone like him and abandon me?"

Evan was at a loss for words.

Maybe I should just keep quiet.

Nicole glared at him before dashing into the duke's study.

Stephen was taken aback to see the two of them already inside his house.

He had sensed Evan's hostility from before and thought that he would be the one to come with a sour face.

On the other hand, Nicole had been quite nice to him since she thought his blood had saved her. Stephen expected her to arrive at his place all smiles.

However, it seemed like the situation did not line up with his expectation.

Even though Evan's face was void of emotions, Stephen no longer sensed any hostility coming from him.

On the contrary, Nicole seemed like she had swallowed a bomb. She was glaring at him like he had done her terribly wrong.

All of a sudden, the tables had turned.

"Nicole, you guys are here. Come, take a seat."

Nicole's glare was full of hatred.

Stephen was stumped. Does she know about it already?

"Sir Musgrave, I'd like to clarify some things with you." Nicole's face was stern as she enunciated every word.

The images of her mother's pale face flashed before her mind. Nicole was pained by the sudden flashback. If Mom had not met this jerk, she wouldn't have led such a miserable life.

Sylphiette had mentioned that their mother had not been able to move on from her birth father. She felt sorry for Zane because of this. That was the reason she took the driver's seat after Zane had killed a person in a car accident. She wanted to compensate for her guilt by taking the blame for him.

The man that Mom could not forget till the day she died. She must have loved him deeply.

This jerk does not deserve Mom's love.

Stephen kept mum for a while and poured another cup of tea for himself. He was a seasoned man. Judging by Nicole's attitude right now, he could already deduce the questions that would ensue.

It looks like she knew her identity already. Stephen just did not foresee that she would know about it so soon.

Nicole approached him directly. She looked straight into his eyes.

"What do you think of a man who abandons a woman who is carrying his child?"

As expected, she's asking what happened back then.

Her question warranted Stephen to define himself.

He lifted his cup and sipped on it. Looking right at her, he replied, "A jerk!"

Great, at least you have the guts to admit it.

Nicole's fist tightened.

Evan was surprised by his blunt reply. A man who does not try to defend or explain himself either has nothing to say about his wrongdoing, or he indeed has his reasons for doing so. So he wasn't a real jerk.

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Stephen Musgrave seemed to have a story of his own.

Evan believed that the duke had his reasons for leaving Nicole's mother back then.

Nicole snorted at the duke's reply and asked, "Then should the jerk kneel and apologize in front of the woman's grave whom he had abandoned?"

The pain and suffering that her mother had endured while giving birth to her and her dire circumstances back then could never be compensated even if the man before her came crawling and apologize at her mother's grave.

The duke seemed to resonate with Nicole's feelings.

One of the deepest regrets in his life was not being able to get together with Rosalie.

He was stumped for a moment and looked at Nicole. "I will go visit your mother." He did not beat around the bush further.

She no longer restrained herself since the duke had already gone straight to the point.

"If you're not going to kneel and apologize, there's no point for you to go visit her! My mother does not want to see you!" Nicole growled at him.

"Nicole, I understand how you feel. The relationship between your mother and I is one of the deepest regrets of my life."

"Your deepest regret? More like the most unfortunate thing to ever happen to my mother!"

All of a sudden, memories came flashing before her eyes. Memories of her mother staring blankly at the sky; memories of her mother being silent most of the time; memories of her mother's look of despair; memories of her mother's depression...

All of which had to do with the man before her.

All the unfortunate events that befell her mother was because the man whom her mother loved the most abandoned her. The pain inflicted upon her would haunt her short-lived life.

Is Mom's encounter with this man a fortunate or unfortunate event?

The duke fell silent and did not say another word. Stumped, Nicole turned around to leave.

Evan rose and looked at the duke. "Could you disclose whatever happened back then?"

Stephen did not reply. He merely said, "Take good care of her." Then, he took his leave as well.

“She will never be able to move on if you don’t tell her.”

Evan said as he saw the duke turn around. Stephen halted his steps for a moment before leaving.

Evan noticed Nicole staring at the night sky with reddened eyes as soon as he got inside the car.

He knew she must have thought about her mother again.

He edged closer to her and took her in his embrace. Softly, Evan said, “Just cry if you feel like it.”

“I’m not going to cry. Why would I? I just don’t understand why my mother fell for him back then.”

Evan reached out to tap her head. His gaze was affectionate and gentle. “Before knowing that he’s your father, didn’t you like him too? Why did you like him then?”

Nicole fell deep into her thoughts.

She felt that he was a gentle elder who cared for her. The feeling was quite inexplicable as he emitted an elder’s love and affection.

However, now that she knew of the truth...

“Could I have been blinded? I didn’t know who he truly was.”

“I think there must be a reason your mother had fallen for him. If he were truly heartless, why had your mother not been able to forget about him?”

Well, that could be true.

Seeing that Nicole went silent, he gently called her name. “Nicole, I think your mother would like to see you reunite with him.”

Really?

Is that really what Mom wishes to see?

Evan’s extrapolation piqued her interest in knowing her mother’s relationship with the duke.

Maybe they were madly in love, and their love story was a tragic one.

Having said that, she still stood by her view that the duke should not have abandoned her mother.

“Get a good night’s sleep tonight.”

“Okay.”

The car sped along the road. Soon, Nicole felt sleepy. She leaned in Evan’s arms and dozed off. She felt safe and sound in his arms.

At the estate.

Stephen stood in front of Rosalie’s portrait. He lifted his head to look at the portrait as his mind was preoccupied with a myriad of thoughts. He could not even begin to find the words to describe his feelings.

My daughter thinks I am a jerk who abandons my woman when she's pregnant!

He felt his heart constricting at the thought.

"Rosalie, Nicole looks just like you. I shouldn't have given up on our relationship. I shouldn't have believed the lies that you told me. I shouldn't have... They must have forced you into doing it, right?"

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Rosalie's portrait hung on the wall. There was a faint smile on her face. Every time Stephen looked at her, he felt a surge of warm feeling coursing through his heart.

His lips curled into a thin smile. He stood quietly in front of her portrait.

It was as if they had been together all along.

Evan covered Nicole with a blanket when he noticed that she had dozed off.

He quietly observed her features. She had porcelain fair skin with a tall nose. Her lips were red as cherry.

Evan noticed the resemblance between Nicole and the duke's nose and mouth.

Blood relation is really one of a kind.

If the duke had not been a jerk, Nicole would have liked him to be her father.

All of a sudden, a thought popped into Evan's mind. He took out his phone and dialed a number.

"John, follow me somewhere. Leave the kids to Jeremy."

"Yes, Mr. Seet."

John had been dealing with the business with K Nation. He had just gone back to the hotel when Evan called him. Even though he had no idea where his boss was heading, he did not dare to question his boss.

He hurriedly got out of bed and urged Jeremy to take care of the quadruplets. After all, the four of them were the president and Mrs. Seet's lifeline.

"Don't worry, I will take good care of them." Jeremy said.

When John knew that Evan was heading to the estate, he was stumped.

"Are you sure you're going to estate at this hour? Did the old man do something to offend you again? Just order me if you feel like dealing with him. There's no need for you to rush to the estate at this hour personally."

Evan cast him a glance. "You need to treat Sir Musgrave with respect in the future."

John was perplexed by his boss's order. Why has Mr. Seet changed his mind about his love rival all of a sudden?

Evan stood outside the estate and glanced at his watch. It was already eleven o'clock.

He was not sure if the duke would agree to see him at this hour.

However, he was really curious about what happened between the duke and Nicole's mother.

Judging from the way the duke reacted just now, it would not have been the typical story of a jerk abandoning the woman who was pregnant with his child.

If he could figure out what happened between the two, then maybe he would be able to narrow the gap between the duke and Nicole.

Nicole had always hoped to have a loving father. She would be really happy if they could reconcile.

Evan vowed to stop at nothing to make Nicole happy.

"John, knock the door."

John nodded. He walked to the door and knocked on it.

However, his action was reprimanded by Evan's stern warning.

"Why are you smashing the door?!"

John was taken aback. He just wanted to make himself heard.

Mr. Seet really has changed his attitude toward the duke. Before this, he would have closed an eye even if I were to tear down the duke's door.

The abrupt change in his boss's attitude puzzled him.

He turned around and grinned at his boss. "I'll be more gentle." John turned around to face the door and knocked on it gently this time.

"Coming, coming! Who is coming at this ungodly hour..."

The maid grumbled as she answered the door. She was stumped at the sight of John. "Who are you?"

John knew he had to be polite to the duke and the people around him. Hence, he slightly bowed and said, "Mr. Seet would like to meet the duke. Could you pass on the message to him?"

Who the hell is Mr. Seet?

The maid was used to random people knocking on the door to meet the duke. She had never heard of Mr. Seet and wanted to reject their request.

However, a voice piped up behind her.

"Let them in."

The man had come to the door after some time.

"Mr. Levant, you're still up? They would like to meet Sir Musgrave."

Levant looked at Evan who was standing right underneath a streetlamp not far from them. His gaze incomprehensible, and he had a trace of smile on his face.

